



Green Elephant Fundraiser

By Randi Keppler

Wednesday, Sep 23, 2026 at 7:00pm



Our September meeting features our annual green elephant fundraiser which includes a silent and live auction. Members are encouraged to bring in trees and other bonsai related materials that can be placed in a silent auction with a designated portion of proceeds for SBBK at a minimum of 20%. Alternatively, items can be fully donated to SBBK for a live auction with our primo auctioneer, John Mekisich. 100% of the proceeds from the live auction remain with SBBK.

Items for both the silent and live auction should be in place no later than 7:00 PM on the 23rd with entry form for the silent auction completed for each item. If a minimum price is desired that should be stated at the item location on the silent auction form. The silent auction will begin promptly at 7:10 and closed at 7:30. The live auction will then begin shortly thereafter.

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Refreshment Reminder

Sep Mtg

SBBK Board
Green Elephant

Oct Mtg

Philip Talbert
Marguerite W
JT Thompson

Nov Mtg

Jenny Tsao
Jimmy Yan

Please find a replacement if unable to bring refreshments as scheduled. Refer to the SBBK roster.

SBBK Calendar

- Sep 19** **Akebono Bonsai Club 62nd Exhibition**
Palo Alto Buddhist Temple
2751 Louis Road, Palo Alto
Sat **10:00 am - 4:00 pm**
- Oct 3** **Midori Bonsai & Ikebana 63rd Show**
Quinlan Community Center
10185 N Stelling Rd, Cupertino
Sat **10:00 am - 5:00 pm**
- Oct 6** **First Tuesday Workshop**
San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way, San Mateo
Tue **7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**
- Oct 13** **Pottery Workshop for New Members**
San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way, San Mateo
Tue **7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**
- Oct 15-17** **BGLM Autumn Lights**
650 Bellevue Ave, Lake Merritt, Oakland
Thu-Sat (details to follow)
- Oct 20** **Kusamono Workshop**
San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way, San Mateo
Tue **7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

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President's Message

By Mike Rosenthal

It is with a heavy heart and a deep sense of loss that I let you all know of the passing of one of our cherished members, Pam Gallego. Pam was a long-time member of SBBK who routinely, along with her husband Howard, attended nearly all SBBK events and contributed to our programs, much to our benefit and joy. Pamela was a past member of the SBBK Board, and her presence was always of great value to our deliberations. Pam was a great friend and colleague and will be truly missed. May she rest in peace, and our sincerest sympathies are extended to Howard and her family.



Our recent meeting with guest presenter, Pedro Morales from Puerto Rico, was a most enjoyable event. His personality and style provided useful information and was extremely entertaining and well received. One (me) could not help but be astonished and traumatized at what Pedro did in "trimming" trees especially my ficus. Please note these before and after pics and reassure me that it grows back fast – time is of the essence.



Coming up in September will be our annual Green Elephant sale providing a wonderful opportunity to sell, donate and purchase material by our members in both silent and live auction formats. It is always a most fun

event, and John Mekisich will once again entertain us all as our auctioneer. That alone is worth the price of admission. Full instructions will have been sent to all members. If you have any questions you can contact Randi at calshohin@yahoo.com or me at mhr@stanford.edu.

Other SBBK events in the near future will be a much-awaited field trip organized by Gianne to both the Murayama Nursery and Peter Teas' garden. Past field trips set-up by Gianne have always been a lot of fun and well worth the travel time.

Given the enthusiasm that was triggered by Young Choe and her kusamono presentation, Randi Keppeler has taken on the responsibility for establishing a recurring SBBK Kusamono Workshop to be offered on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Rose Room at the San Mateo Garden Center. Please read her accompanying description of this new opportunity for members.

Finally, many of us remember the fun we had participating in Barbara Phillips' pottery workshop at one of our monthly meetings. Barbara has agreed to sponsor another for new members to be held also in the Rose Room on October 13. This will be first offered for new members who have joined in the past year with a limited number of 12 participants. If not filled as the time approaches others will be allowed to join – me first.

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SBBK Scholarship Reminder

Sei Boku members. Please remember that the deadline to apply for the Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Scholarship for this year is October 31, 2026. There is a link to the application here on the Snippet and Resources on our Website. So please apply before that deadline.

Michael Fernandez

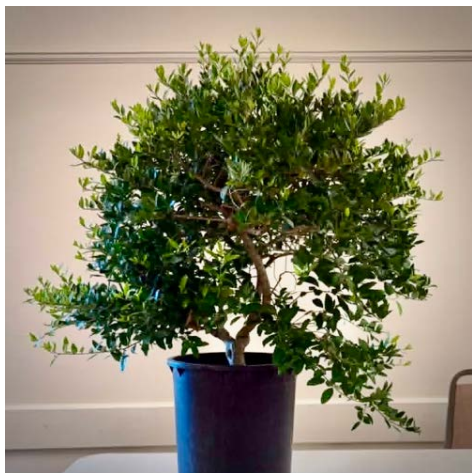


Aug Mtg Recap: Pedro Morales — Tropicals

By Michael Wei

Pedro styled a Yaupon Holly. Assessing little to no taper to the trunk he recommended a bunjin style. He used a drape to evaluate potential pruning results. He

also used A.I. tools for suggestions and projecting the final bonsai. See the images below of before, after, and A.I. extrapolation of how it may be developed. For a bunjin style, a round/hexagonal or symmetrical pot is ideal; with the width of the foliage similar to the pot. New growth is expected in around one month.



Having used photo editing & A.I. to suggest styling, and how this bonsai may end up as



Jeff Whitnack — raffle winner



Gerardo Ortiz — defoliated & pruned his Tiger Bark Ficus, expecting new buds in a month



REBS Show (Rohnert Park)

By Michael Wei

The Redwood Empire Bonsai Society held a great bonsai show in August. This was my first visit to the REBS and was impressed by the show. Many trees from great practitioners, with many trees with over 20, 30 and even 50 years of development. The vendor

area had trees, stands, tools and more. Sharing a few trees below, and happy to share more if curious. Sam Tan was the headliner and styled a juniper on Saturday and Pygmy Cypress on Sunday. I encourage you to partner with a club-mate/friend and visit next August.



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Check-out and payment will not begin until after the live auction, so we must all be patient and if purchases are made, waiting until the live auction has completed. Payment can be made by credit card, cash or check.

Refreshments will be provided by your Board and will not be available until after the silent auction has completed.

This program has always been one of our most fun events for the year and provides a great opportunity to pass on some of your trees to other members and support SBBK. There are always some outstanding items available and acquiring something new from your colleagues is always very special.



A Pottery Workshop for New Members

By Barbara Phillips

Who: Members who joined since the 2025 show

What: Kusamono pot, or for a tree.

Make a small or medium sized ceramic pot which can be used as an accent pot or bonsai pot.

How: Link at the bottom to sign up.

A ceramic teacher will guide each of the participants in the process of making a pot.

There will be a teacher for every 4 students, so everyone will have ample help.

Where: San Mateo Garden Center, Rose Room

When: Tuesday, October 13, from 7:00-9:00 pm.

I will start promptly at 7:00, and this activity will take the full 2 hours.



**PACIFIC
BONSAI
EXPO 2027**

The 2027 Pacific Bonsai Expo

The 2027 Pacific Bonsai Expo will be held on February 6-7, 2027, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, California.

Follow the QR code for ticket sales.

Volunteer opportunities to follow.



President's Letter

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Summer is coming to a close – all too soon. With my grandkids back to school so early nowadays, it seems like summer is the briefest of seasons. Fortunately, for those of us retired the whole year is vacation time and all week is a weekend. Be patient, the rest of you, it comes all too soon along with age. Stay healthy and enjoy.

— Mike R

Maximum participants: 12

Cost: \$25.00. This will be collected the night of the workshop, please pay by check or cash.

The cost includes all materials, instruction, kiln firing of the pots and glazing.

If you sign up but find you are unable to come, please text me as soon as possible, so I can fill your space.

Thanks for your enthusiasm, I look forward to another pot making adventure with Sei Boku.

Barbara Phillips. (650) 862-8851



Autumn Lights Festival Needs Volunteers — Please Help!

By Randi Keppeler

The City of Oakland has wholeheartedly embraced our Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt for more than 25 years. To help with upkeep of the facilities around us, the city hosts an annual Autumn Lights Festival, a fundraiser benefiting all the Gardens at Lake Merritt. This year's setup will start on the weekend of October 10th. The Autumn Lights Festival itself will run from Thursday Oct 15th through Saturday Oct 17th with cleanup happening on Sunday Oct 18th.

We need help to get the Bonsai Garden ready for the festival. We also need docents for each night of the festival where we answer questions from the 1000 to 3000 people who enjoy our bonsai. Each tree with its own spotlight, and we need people on the very last day, to help take everything down and packing up for storage.

Any small bit that you can give us will be Greatly Appreciated! Please sign up using the following link or QR Code.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0848A9AC2BA2FBC43-65628079-2026>



While we cannot gift families with admission tickets, we can get Thursday, Friday, or Saturday night admission for those who volunteer on those days. With enough docents, we rotate guard duties so that each person can spend time exploring the rest of the Autumn Lights Festival. We hope that you will join us in having fun and giving back to the community around us.

Please contact Randi Keppeler:

(calshohin@yahoo.com or 650-773-5119) if you have any questions or if you have trouble with the online sign-up interface.



SBBK Kusamono Focus Group

By Randi Keppeler

There is a growing interest in Kusamono in the Bay Area. For those who are fuzzy on what that is, Kusamono are potted arrangements of wild grasses, flowers, ferns, and/or mosses that evoke a season or a natural habitat. Smaller scale versions of these arrangements are called Shitakusa and are used as companion plantings for our bonsai displays.

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai is forming a Kusamono focus group that will meet on the third Tuesday of each month (except Dec). This is separate from and in addition to our First Tuesday workshop which is dedicated to working on our bonsai trees.



Kusamono Third Tuesday will meet in the San Mateo Garden Center Rose Room. The first meeting is Tuesday, October 20th from 7pm to 9pm. We'll start with a presentation on what Kusamono is from various artists' perspective. We hope to make this a regular forum for teaching the techniques needed to create and maintain Kusamono and to share knowledge and tips for various habitats and plant species.

As a starting goal, we plan to provide a couple of mini shows for the Sei Boku Monthly Meeting, perhaps one in the spring and another in the fall. We also have an opportunity to help the Kusamura Bonsai Club with the amazing Kusamono display that they create each year for their annual show. They have 16 feet of table space reserved next year with a theme of "California Grasslands".

We encourage everyone to suggest meeting agendas and activities. For example, we could arrange shopping trips, or exchange Kusamono knowledge with friends on the east coast and with the San Diego Bonsai club perhaps via Zoom or something similar. This will hopefully evolve the botanical sophistication of the companion plantings for our annual Bonsai Show as well.

New Bonsai Nursery in East Palo Alto

By Bill McDonald

At a recent first Tuesday workshop, Barbara Phillips mentioned a new bonsai nursery in East Palo Alto. So of course, I hustled on down there as soon as I could. At the Hernandez Nursery, at 101 and Willow Road, I found Will's Bonsai.

The owner Will Liu was in the back working on well-developed bonsai. His small work area was packed with trees that I am guessing were 10 to 20 years old, and had received constant, thoughtful development.

Will opened his nursery in July of 2025. For the last twenty years Will has worked on bonsai and taken bonsai classes in Taiwan.

He specializes in deciduous bonsai but has many pine and broadleaf evergreen. He also has pre-bonsai for sale. He currently has nearly 1,000 trees with 200 to 300 available for sale.

He told me he grows and develops his trees at the nursery and at his home from seed, cuttings and material from local nurseries.

I purchased a beautiful Barberry and a Vitex, and Michael Wei had purchased a white pine from him that I am anxious to see.

To make sure Will is available at the nursery it is best to call him at:

(510) 579-5143

Will's Bonsai at Hernandez Nursery
910 Newbridge, East Palo Alto



Finding a go-to resource when you need to learn more

“Understanding how trees behave given your local conditions can make a big difference.... When it comes to getting information from friends, clubs, nurseries or online resources... the more you know about one's trees and their understanding of your climate, the better.

Likewise, books. Find books with photos of trees that are full, healthy and beautiful.

Once you've found a teacher and or a club, friend, website or nursery that can help, you have it made. Bonsai can be as fun as it is challenging, and as frustrating as it is rewarding. And with help from the right people, even the challenges and frustrations merit the effort.”

Jonas Dupuich, Bonsai Tonight Blog

<https://bonsaitonight.com/2017/01/06/finding-go-resource-need-learn/>

New SBBK Calendar of Events

2026

Oct	Mtg: Philippe Baron
Nov	Mtg: Business Meeting, Fall Clean-up Workshop
Dec	Holiday Party

Welcoming New Members



- Gary Chan
- Carol Dorward
- Birgit Eeckman
- Sophia Lin



Inspiring accent plants from
the REBS 2026 Show



Visit us on the web at <https://seibokubonsai.org/>
or at <https://facebook.com/seiboku.bonsaikai>
or at <https://instagram.com/seibokubonsai>



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